



Indiana Tree Farm  
Outdoor Classroom Committee  
Tom Thake  
USDA Forest Service  
Hoosier National Forest  
248 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tell City, IN 47586      Phone 812-547-9248      tthake@fs.fed.us

FOR: Outdoor Classrooms in Indiana

The Indiana State Tree Farm Committee strongly encourages the development of quality outdoor education classrooms. Without a doubt, classes taught outdoors are experiences likely to remain in the minds of students for many years. We are pleased to sponsor a contest to recognize the Outstanding Outdoor School Classroom each year. This is the 29<sup>th</sup> year of running this prestigious award. Many of the State award winners went on to further awards.

**Application for the Outdoor classroom can be found at <http://www.inwoodlands.org>**

**District winners receive a \$50.00 check and certificate.**

**State winner received a \$500.00 check and solid walnut plaque for the school solid walnut plaque for an individual and a letter of appreciation from Senator Richard Lugar. Winners also have the opportunity to make a presentation at the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers (HASTI) conference.**

What does the Tree Farm Committee look for in its selection? Although "tree" is in our name and we do look for forest use and management in the curriculum, an existing woods is not needed to qualify for the award. We are more interested in how you are developing a curriculum around the natural resources you have. A major consideration will be that there is a curricular emphasis on use and management of natural resources. We believe it is essential that students learn how our natural resources are used to provide us with all of the products we use every day. We can't have houses, furniture or paper without cutting trees; we can't feed an expanding population without modern agricultural practices; we can't build and drive automobiles without mining the earth's minerals. But we can't expect all of these resources to sustain us indefinitely without proper management. Human impact on the earth is too intense to simply let nature take its course in replenishing resources without active human management. This is a message our young people must be taught if they are to carry on as responsible stewards of the land.

We like to see a well balanced program that goes beyond simple awareness and identification. It should include consideration of soils, water, wildlife, energy and, of course, forestry, and how these resources can be managed for production, recreation, aesthetics and other benefits. We also like to see a program used in many different subject areas and at many different grade levels. It may seem that we are expecting a great deal, and we are--we are looking for the most outstanding outdoor lab program in the state.

Initial judging will be made at the District Tree Farm Committee level, and district finalists will have an on-site evaluation conducted by the selection committee. Completed applications should be mailed to the Chairperson of the Tree Farm Outdoor Classroom Committee, Tom Thake – USDA Forest Service Hoosier National Forest, 248 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Tell City, IN 47586. Applications should be submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup>. A winner will be selected at the Tree Farm District level and an on-site evaluation of District winners will occur in late September – early October. A fifty dollar check along with a district winner certificate will be presented to each district winner. From the district winners the State Outdoor Classroom will be selected.

The school judged to be the most outstanding classroom will be awarded **two solid walnut plaques** (one for school and one for individual) along with a **five hundred dollar check** from Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association (IHLA) along with a letter of appreciation from Senator Richard Lugar as the Outstanding Outdoor Classroom in Indiana. The first plaque will be engraved with the name of the school and the second plaque is reserved for the person who has been most responsible for guiding the outdoor lab's development. The State award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. in February. We also will arrange for the winning school to make a presentation at the HASTI convention in which the winning school can highlight their school's achievement.

If you are aware of an outdoor lab that stresses multiple use resource management, your efforts in nominating the school for this award will be greatly appreciated. If you need additional copies of the application, please visit the web site at [www.inwoodlands.org](http://www.inwoodlands.org)

Should you have any questions, please contact your local representative of the State Tree Farm System or any member of the Indiana State Tree Farm Outdoor Classroom Committee.

Outdoor Classroom Committee Members:

Tom Thake - 812-547-9248 [tthake@fs.fed.us](mailto:tthake@fs.fed.us)

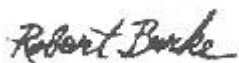
Donna Rogler - 317-549-0354 [plt@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:plt@dnr.state.in.us)

Susan Schultz - 317-326-2952 [sms@hrtc.net](mailto:sms@hrtc.net)

Pat Cooper - 317-542-0899 [PCooper@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:PCooper@dnr.IN.gov)

We look forward to the opportunity to come and visit your school.

Sincerely,



Robert Burke, Chairman

State Tree Farm Committee

## **PREVIOUS INDIANA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

1977 School - Prairie Heights School Corp. - LaGrange County Individual - Ned Stump

1978 School - Hamilton Southeastern Middle School - Hamilton County Individual - Roger Norris

1979 School - Marion Community Schools - Grant County Individual - Jerry Sweeten

1980 School - Bloomington North High School - Monroe County Individual - George Luginbill

1981 School - Warren Central High School - Marion County Individual - Linda Bayne

1982 School - Vigo County School Corporation - Vigo County Individual - Marilyn Blakely & Ron Helms

1983 School - Heth-Washington Elementary School - Harrison County Individual - Travis Bushau

1984 School - Weston Elementary School - Hancock County Individual - Pete Fortune

1985 School - Homestead High School - Allen County Individual - Douglas Waldman

1986 School - Parkside Elementary School - LaGrange County Individual - Joyce Weber & Joan Zimmerman

1987 School - North Harrison Elementary School - Harrison County Individual - Deborah Schroeder

1988 School - Charlestown Middle School - Clark County Individual - Bill King

1989 School - Eden Elementary School - Hancock County Individual - Susan Schultz

1990 School - Custer Baker Middle School - Johnson County Individual - Lynn Wilhelm

1991 School - Brush Creek Elementary - Jennings County Individual - Ron Milligan

1992 School - New Albany - Floyd County Schools - Floyd County Individual - John Riddle

1993 School - Franke Park School - Allen County Individual - Russ Voorhees

1994 School - Spencer Elementary - Owen County Individual - Ginny Coppedge

1995 School - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School - Marion County Individual - Stephen Craig

1996 School - Concord Southside Elementary School - Elkhart County Individual - Judy Wells

1997 School - Chrisney Elementary - Spencer County Individual - Tammy Graham

1998 School - South Ripley Elementary - Ripley County Individual - David Brawner

1999 School- Angola Middle School- Steuben County Individual-Steve Beckwitt

2000 School - Tzouanakis Intermediate School - Putnam County Individual - Daniel TeGrotenhuis.

2001 School - Luce Elementary School - Spencer County Individual - Patricia Keith and Tom Hodges.

2002 School – Lincoln Elementary School – Lake County – Individual - Kathleen Krum

2003 School – Pendleton Elementary - Madison County - Individual – Marilyn Crosley

2004 School – Avon Community School Corporation

2005 School – Northwest Allen County Environmental Center – Individual - Nancy Leininger

## OUTDOOR LABORATORY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by:  
THE INDIANA STATE TREE FARM COMMITTEE

(2006 year)

School System \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Outdoor Lab Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years outdoor lab program has been established \_\_\_\_\_

Number of teachers using outdoor lab \_\_\_\_\_ % of total teachers \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students using outdoor lab \_\_\_\_\_ % of students using lab \_\_\_\_\_

### Entry Instructions

- 8 ½" x 11" paper only
- Total materials not to exceed 1" three-ring binder
- No video or audio tapes accepted
- Please include directions and map to school site

In each of the following categories check all items that apply to your school's outdoor lab program. For each item checked please include a narrative and indicate part # and letter (e.g., IIa.). Support material is optional, but if utilized put corresponding support material after each part (I, II, III).

All material becomes property of the Indiana State Tree Farm Committee. If you wish your entry returned please indicate in a cover letter.

Entry is due by June 15th to: Tom Thake, USDA Forest Service – Hoosier National Forest, 248 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Tell City, IN 47586 Phone: 812-547-9248 e-mail: tthake@fs.fed.us

### **Part I – The Facility**

- ☐ a. Students are involved in the further development and maintenance of the outdoor lab.
- ☐ b. Outdoor lab is used throughout the entire school year.
- ☐ c. Outdoor lab is used to demonstrate use and active management of the resources available.
- ☐ d. Outdoor lab has a written plan for development, operation and maintenance.

### **Part II – Curriculum**

- ☐ a. Written conservation education curriculum is developed (attach copy of curriculum and any related evaluation material, not to exceed what will fit in a 13" x 17" envelope).
- ☐ b. Curriculum was designed by a committee of instructors from the school or corporation.
- ☐ c. Program makes use of local natural resource professionals.
- ☐ d. Curriculum includes use of a supplemental program or programs such as Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, etc. (please name programs and describe how they are used, but do not send photocopies of activities from the books).
- ☐ e. List grade levels and subject areas utilized in the outdoor lab.

### **Part III – Overall Program Administration**

- ☐ a. An established committee for outdoor lab and curriculum development (list members' names and positions).
- ☐ b. Number of times committee meets per year and what involvement committee has in the lab.
- ☐ c. A teacher resource library for conservation education materials is established.
- ☐ d. Teachers are made aware of new conservation education materials and in-service training.
- ☐ e. Professional days are provided for teachers to attend in-service training in conservation education.
- ☐ f. Some form of continuing education credit is available to teachers attending in-service training.
- ☐ g. Formal instruction specific to the use of the outdoor lab is provided to teachers.
- ☐ h. One or more people area assigned time specifically for development and/or teaching of conservation education.
- ☐ i. Community members are involved in the outdoor lab/conservation